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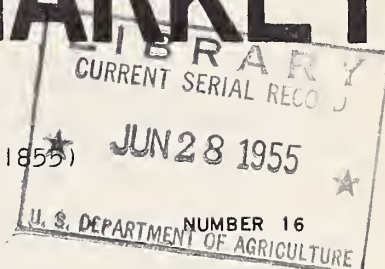
Official Business

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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS OF UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO INCREASE IN 1954

James H. Boulware, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Canberra, reports Australian imports of unmanufactured tobacco increased in 1954 to 38.8 million pounds from the 32.1 million imported in 1953. Imports from the United States increased from 23.1 million pounds in 1953 to 24.8 million in 1954. The relative position of United States leaf in total imports declined, however, from 72 percent in 1953 to 64 percent in 1954.

Australia announced on March 21 of this year a general tightening import restrictions on nondollar imports. This action was reported as necessary due to the possible depletion of foreign exchange. As announced this policy will not affect dollar imports, however, dollar imports continue under strict controls as in the past.

VENEZUELA BEGINS MANUFACTURE OF FILTER-TIP CIGARETTES

A recent report from Venezuela states that a domestic cigarette company has started production of filter-tip cigarettes at the rate of 96,000 cigarettes per hour. These cigarettes are to be sold at the same price as regular cigarettes, about 30 U.S.cents per pack.

HEAVY RAINS REDUCE PROSPECTS OF ARGENTINE TOBACCO CROP

Robert C. Tetro, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires, reports that recent rains and floods in the tobacco area of Misiones-Corrientes in Argentina, have severely damaged the tobacco crop. Trade estimates now place the final harvest of dark air-cured tobacco at about 28.7 million pounds, a reduction of about 6.6 million pounds from previous forecasts. If the 1955 crop is cut this severely production may fall below anticipated needs.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U. S. needing the information it contains.

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INDIA's 1954 TOBACCO
EXPORTS

India's 1954 exports of unmanufactured tobacco, at 70.1 million pounds, were slightly larger than the 1953 total of 69.5 million. Substantial shipments of low-grade flue-cured leaf to Communist China occurred last year, in accordance with the provisions of a trade agreement.

These shipments aided materially in easing the depressed marketing situation arising from large stocks of low-grades accumulated from the 1953 and earlier crops. (Although a breakdown of exports by types of tobacco is not available, it is believed that roughly 60 million pounds of the 70.1 million-pound total consisted of flue-cured tobacco.)

The United Kingdom, as usual, was the principal market for Indian leaf in 1954, taking 31.1 million pounds -- or 44 percent of the total. Other important outlets included Aden, Communist China, Japan, the Netherlands, Belgium, Hong Kong, and Pakistan. The average value of all tobacco exports last year was 1.4 rupees per pound (29.5 U.S. cents), compared with 1.6 rupees (33.9 cents) in 1953.

Tobacco producers are giving more attention to improvement of the quality of their flue-cured tobacco in order to boost exports and prevent accumulation of low-quality leaf.

India: Exports of Unmanufactured Tobacco,
1953 and 1954

Country	1953		1954	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	1,000	U.S. cents	1,000	U.S. cents
	pounds	per pound	pounds	per pound
United Kingdom ^{1/}	30,014	44.9	31,053	44.0
Aden	6,314	12.9	6,415	11.6
Japan	10,020	33.3	5,848	16.4
Netherlands	2,731	15.6	2,373	11.4
Belgium	2,636	16.6	2,038	10.7
Hong Kong	2,902	27.7	2,943	16.9
Pakistan	481	16.9	1,970	25.7
Indonesia	3,715	24.0	417	14.6
Ireland	1,899	37.7	1,031	42.5
Other Countries	8,809	29.3	^{2/} 16,045	20.9
	69,521	33.9	70,133	29.5

^{1/} A large percentage consisted of flue-cured strips.

^{2/} Principally Communist China.

WORLD APPLE AND PEAR PRODUCTION

The North American share of world apple production continues to decline. During the period 1935-39, North America produced almost one-half of the world's supply of apples. During 1945-49, Canada, Mexico, and the United States furnished only a little more than one-third of the world supply of this fruit, while during the past 5 years this share declined to only a little more than one-fourth of the total.

APPLES: Production in specified countries,
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1951-54

Continent and country	Averages		1951	1952	1953	1954 <u>1/</u>
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000	1,0000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada.....	14,560	14,818	13,610	12,049	11,731	14,109
Mexico.....	1,231	2,029	2,337	2,563	2,558	2,526
United States.....	127,311	104,279	110,660	92,489	93,307	103,773
Total.....	143,102	121,126	126,607	107,101	107,596	120,408
EUROPE						
Austria:						
Dessert & cooking	7,095	8,008	8,956	10,159	7,165	8,267
Cider.....	6,291	7,101	3,445	4,933	3,858	4,363
Belgium & Luxemburg	5,721	9,129	14,294	14,488	14,108	10,650
Denmark.....	2,318	7,303	8,267	8,956	6,614	10,104
Finland.....	1,008	546	666	459	689	1,148
France:						
Dessert & cooking	10,499	13,630	14,022	24,152	21,343	20,154
Cider.....	153,973	71,444	82,843	214,367	153,229	146,996
Germany, Western...	36,116	37,890	49,200	62,000	57,100	74,000
Greece.....	374	1,203	1,323	1,727	2,296	2,682
Italy.....	12,923	19,849	38,419	43,393	39,224	38,649
Netherlands.....	3,631	9,452	16,263	18,289	14,422	18,372
Norway.....	1,030	1,073	1,939	2,209	1,475	2,970
Spain.....	5,411	5,859	7,110	6,641	12,309	12,171
Sweden.....	4,770	6,164	6,889	6,595	6,899	11,390
Switzerland.....	16,452	20,300	10,564	25,720	15,616	25,261
United Kingdom:						
Dessert & cooking	10,597	19,705	27,920	23,693	24,943	24,920
Cider.....	3,427	4,078	3,967	4,293	3,435	2,077
Yugoslavia.....	7,098	7,490	8,211	7,541	8,493	4,225
Total cider.....	163,691	82,623	90,255	223,593	160,522	153,436
Total other.....	125,593	167,601	214,043	256,022	232,696	264,963
Total Europe.....	289,284	250,224	304,303	479,615	393,213	418,399

APPLES: Production in specified countries
(Continued) averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1951-54

Continent and country	Averages		1951	1952	1953	1954 ^{1/}
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
ASIA						
Israel.....	65:	244:	64:	78:	138:	115
Lebanon.....	^{2/} 104:	597:	645:	804:	873:	-
Syria.....	-:	252:	207:	82:	220:	276
Turkey.....	5,149:	3,954:	4,082:	4,361:	6,292:	-
Japan.....	7,624:	8,883:	12,106:	25,209:	21,862:	20,714
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina.....	1,400:	7,732:	11,200:	13,400:	12,100:	17,300
Chile.....	1,025:	806:	1,105:	1,804:	1,503:	2,000
AFRICA						
Tunisia.....	115:	168:	138:	184:	138:	-
Union of S. Africa	1,142:	1,180:	1,750:	1,900:	2,375:	-
OCEANIA						
Australia.....	10,435:	11,478:	9,717:	9,562:	12,436:	10,711
New Zealand.....	2,875:	2,794:	3,015:	2,690:	2,936:	2,675
Total specified countries (excl. cider)...	298,629:	326,815:	384,684:	423,197:	401,165:	3/ 447,287
Total specified countries.....	462,320:	409,438:	474,939:	646,790:	561,687:	3/ 600,723

^{1/} Preliminary.

^{2/} Includes Syria.

^{3/} Includes unofficial estimates where data not available to make totals comparable.

NOTE: Estimates in original units of approximately 1 bushel in the following countries: Australia, Canada, United States, New Zealand, and South Africa. In other countries original estimates, mostly in metric tons, converted to bushels of 48 pounds, except Argentina and Chile in 44-pound boxes. Harvest in the Southern Hemisphere countries is for the spring of the following years.

Foreign Agricultural Service.

Production of apples in North America declined 15 percent between 1935-39 and 1945-49, and has remained fairly steady since. The rest of the world increased production by about one-third between 1935-39 and 1945-49, and by another third in the latest 5-year period.

Western Europe has been the principal contributor to the larger world production of apples, although the percentage increases in Japan and Argentina have been greater. Apple production in Australia and New Zealand has remained fairly steady throughout the whole 20-year period; thus, these countries also have a smaller share of the world supply.

PEARS: Production in specified countries,
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1951-54

Continent and country	Average		1951	1952	1953	1954 1/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada.....	569	873	1,225	1,303	1,435	1,260
Mexico.....	331	596	684	751	750	750
United States.....	28,693	33,108	30,028	30,947	29,081	30,077
Total.....	29,593	34,577	31,937	33,001	31,266	32,087
EUROPE						
Austria:						
Dessert & cooking...	950	1,380	1,323	1,825	1,444	1,675
Cider.....	5,416	5,885	6,614	6,561	5,646	6,482
Belgium & Luxemburg...	2,126	5,204	4,694	11,290	11,521	8,295
Denmark.....	480	855	1,056	1,194	1,102	1,100
France:						
Dessert & cooking...	1,760	5,447	5,409	7,789	6,768	6,499
Cider.....	21,776	11,165	12,947	33,501	23,946	22,972
Germany, Western.....	11,891	13,370	11,730	23,600	19,000	17,300
Greece.....	878	1,220	1,393	1,530	1,720	1,847
Italy.....	8,482	11,243	16,209	17,491	18,166	15,234
Netherlands.....	1,570	5,582	3,942	8,073	5,776	8,157
Norway.....	174	194	278	304	171	300
Spain.....	3,057	2,609	2,866	3,197	3,377	3,307
Sweden.....	1,063	1,102	1,323	2,116	1,058	1,940
Switzerland.....	7,037	11,728	6,614	12,346	11,905	7,937
United Kingdom:						
Dessert & cooking...	782	1,492	1,384	1,998	1,586	1,568
Cider.....	237	272	94	291	215	255
Yugoslavia.....	2,773	3,050	4,698	2,695	4,308	2,161
Total cider.....	27,429	17,322	19,655	40,353	29,807	29,709
Total other.....	43,023	64,476	62,919	95,448	87,902	77,320
Total Europe.....	70,452	81,798	82,574	135,801	117,709	107,029

PEARS: Production in specified countries,
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1951-54

(Continued)

Continent and country	Average		1951	1952	1953	1954 ^{1/}
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
ASIA						
Lebanon.....	2/ 24	263	154	154	154	-
Syria.....	-	66	62	60	84	44
Turkey.....	3,466	2,992	3,552	2,368	4,586	-
Japan.....	7,366	2,644	3,580	4,446	4,145	4,277
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina.....	2,443	4,975	5,300	4,600	3,100	4,900
Chile.....	88	103	149	175	150	-
AFRICA						
Union of So.Africa:	832	676	848	1,240	908	-
OCEANIA						
Australia.....	2,467	3,059	2,751	3,215	4,426	4,002
New Zealand.....	328	371	379	486	359	403
Total specified countries						^{3/}
(excl. cider)	89,630	114,202	111,631	145,193	137,030	127,388
Total specified countries.....	117,059	131,524	131,286	185,546	166,837	^{3/} 157,097
^{1/} Preliminary. ^{2/} Includes Syria. ^{3/} Includes unofficial estimates where data not available to make totals comparable.						

NOTE: Estimates in original units of approximately 1 bushel in the following countries: Australia, Canada, United States, New Zealand, and South Africa. In other countries original estimates, mostly in metric tons, converted to bushels of 50 pounds, except Argentina and Chile in 44-pound boxes. Harvest in the Southern Hemisphere countries is for the spring of the following year.

Foreign Agricultural Service.

Over the past 20 years, world pear production has increased nearly 50 per cent. While production in Europe has about doubled, supplies from the rest of the world have remained fairly steady. The North American share of world production during this period has, therefore, declined from about one-third of the supply to about one-fourth of the total.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. representatives abroad.

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION EXCEEDS EARLY EXPECTATIONS

Olive oil production from the 1954 crop of olives in the Mediterranean Basin now appears to have been considerably larger than early forecasts had indicated. The Foreign Agricultural Service estimates the output at 900,000 tons. This is 28 percent less than the tonnage estimated to have been produced from the 1953 olive crop but 11 percent more than from the 1952 crop, the previous "off" output. These production estimates represent the total oil pressed including allowances for consumption by growers in countries reporting only commercial production.

A significant decline from the 1953 level of production was imminent as 1954 was a year of low output in the two-year cycle normally characteristic of olive production in the major producing countries. The decline, however, was not so great as was expected early in the season, largely because production in Spain apparently has far exceeded preliminary forecasts. Moreover, generally favorable weather and limited insect damage resulted in above-average production for an "off" year in several areas. And in 3 countries--Turkey, French Morocco and Yugoslavia--oil production increased sharply from 1953.

Spain's olive oil production, now estimated at 300,000 tons, was the smallest in the past 4 years but was much higher than was expected pre-seasonally. A highly damaging freeze in February 1954, heavy snows in April, persistent drought during the greater part of the year, and heavy insect infestation were the principal factors in this lower-than-normal output. That the volume of oil eventually was much higher than expectations reportedly was the result of favorable rains in November and December 1954 and January 1955. The major oil-producing provinces of Jaen and Cordoba for the third consecutive year were far below their production from 1951-crop olives of 220,000 and 132,000 tons, respectively.

The latest official estimate places Italy's olive oil production at about 215,000 tons. While this volume of oil would represent a drop of 43 percent from last season, it would be the largest tonnage for an "off" year in the postwar period. Production in Calabria and Sicily, which in the previous year had accounted for one-third of the total crop, dropped sharply in 1954. Summer drought in these regions resulted in small olives and a comparatively low per unit oil yield.

The final official estimate of oil output in Greece is 120,000 tons, almost one-third less than the near-record tonnage from the 1953 crop but one of the largest outturns on record for an "off" year. Hot dry winds and extensive attacks of the olive kernel borer during the summer caused a heavy drop of immature olives. This was followed by insect attacks in September and October.

OLIVE OIL 1/: Estimated production in the Mediterranean Basin,
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1951-1954

(Short tons)

Country	Average		1951	1952	1953	1954 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
EUROPE						
France.....	8,000:	7,000:	13,000:	7,000:	12,000:	9,000
Greece.....	131,500:	132,540:	155,200:	77,000:	174,600:	120,000
Italy.....	256,000:	189,800:	390,000:	200,000:	380,000:	215,000
Portugal.....	64,000:	67,460:	117,000:	57,700:	134,400:	50,000
Spain.....	3/357,400:	365,200:	666,900:	308,600:	363,800:	300,000
Yugoslavia.....	3/ 5,900:	4,100:	3,200:	3,000:	800:	9,000
MIDDLE EAST						
Israel.....	4/ 7,000:	3/ 2,500:	200:	2,000:	1,500:	-
Syria.....		14,900:	5,500:	5,500:	3,800:	-
Lebanon.....	{12,500:	10,800:	11,000:	8,000:	11,000:	-
Turkey.....	44,000:	38,000:	38,000:	60,000:	30,000:	65,000
AFRICA						
Algeria.....	20,000:	17,600:	28,000:	29,000:	28,000:	30,000
French Morocco..	10,300:	11,800:	30,000:	13,000:	18,000:	28,000
Tunisia.....	49,300:	42,300:	50,000:	38,600:	90,000:	56,000
Libya.....	2,600:	3,000:	4,000:	1,000:	5,000:	-
Total.....	968,500:	907,000:	1,512,000:	810,400:	1,252,000:	5/900,000

1/Total oil pressed from olives grown in the years indicated; excludes oil extracted from residue. 2/Preliminary. 3/ Average of less than 5 years.

4/ Territory formerly known as Palestine. 5/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. representatives abroad, results of office research, and other information.

Percentagewise, the sharpest drop from 1953 in the Mediterranean area occurred in Portugal. The 50,000-ton estimate is 63 percent less than the record 134,400-ton yield of oil from the 1953 crop.

Production in the Middle East may have reached 80,000 tons, with Turkey accounting for an estimated 65,000 tons. This exceptionally large output in Turkey--over twice the yield from 1953-crop olives--apparently is due to the grafting of thousands of wild olive trees over a period of years in order that their productivity might be increased. Output in other producing areas of the Middle East has not yet been reported.

North African olive oil production appears to have been down about 17 percent from 1953 with the loss accounted for largely in Tunisia. Although Tunisian production, estimated provisionally at 56,000 tons, is one-third less than in the previous year, it is one of the largest for a year of low production. With the steady extension of plantings during recent years, average output of oil is rising. French Morocco's oil production is up 56 percent and Algeria's 7 percent.

Early prospects for 1955 are favorable. Spain reports that generous rains at the end of 1954 and thus far in 1955, combined with unusually mild temperatures in general, have fostered prospects for a good crop. Mild winter weather also has prevailed in Italy. Moreover, the long-run production in Italy is expected to increase. During the past 5 years approximately 500,000 olive trees have been planted annually and present plans call for a total of approximately 26 million new trees to be planted within the next several years. It is intended that Italy reach an annual average production of around 385,000 tons. In Greece, the abundance of blossoms in the southern areas of the country and the vigorous appearance of trees throughout the country, together with adequate soil moisture, point to a good crop.

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CEYLON RICE SUPPLIES

Rice stocks in Ceylon at the beginning of 1955 were in a good position, with approximately 76,000 long tons (1 long ton = 2,240 pounds) imported from Communist China and 36,000 tons from Burma in the fourth quarter of 1954. Government food officials estimated that on January 1, the country had a stockpile of about 100,000 tons of rice, an amount more than double the average stock carry-over needed to supply Ceylon's rice requirements.

Ceylon's rice supplies, however, are strengthened more by the harvesting of increased domestic production in 1954 and 1955 than by a gain in imports. Record crops of around 1,450 million pounds of rough rice (425,000 long tons milled) compare with 1,200 million pounds (360,000 tons milled) in the postwar average 1945-46/49-50 period.

Rice imports in 1954 totaled 887 million pounds, a moderate decline from the preceding year, and about the same as average imports during the 1951-53 period. The proportion of imports from Communist China declined to 54 percent of the total as compared with 65 percent in the year before, while the share of imports from Burma increased.

CEYLON: Rice (milled) imports, by country of origin,
averages 1935-39 and 1947-49, annual 1951-54

Country of origin:	Average		1951	1952	1953	1954
	1935-1939	1947-1949				
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Burma.....)	935	535	831	496	315	374
British India.....)		1/	1/	1/	1/	2
Indochina.....	23	0	0	51	0	0
Brazil.....	0	72	0	0	0	0
Thailand.....	202	47	0	34	0	0
Egypt.....	0	126	0	0	0	0
Italy.....	0	16	0	0	0	0
Pakistan.....	-	1/	55	13	0	0
China.....	0	0	0	80	534	430
Iran.....	0	0	0	1	0	31
United States.....	0	0	0	134	5	0
Other countries...	8	1/	0	85	0	1/
Total.....	1,218	796	886	894	904	887

1/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Ceylon Customs Returns.

JAPANESE RICE
IMPORTS

Provisional plans of the Japanese Government in fiscal year 1955 (April 1955-March 1956) include rice imports of 1,190,000 metric tons in terms of brown rice (1,119,000 tons milled), according to Joseph C. Dodson, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Tokyo. Japanese officials believe that an import at this level will permit maintenance at the present consumer ration.

The Japanese Government continues to base its food policies on increasing the consumption of wheat products and keeping its imports of rice to minimum levels. This minimum annual requirement for import in terms of brown rice is around 1,000,000 to 1,200,000 metric tons (converted to terms of milled at 94 percent).

Under the official supply and distribution program of the fiscal year just ended (April 1954-March 1955), a reduction of about 265,000 metric tons was planned from the rice imports of 1,541,000 tons in the preceding fiscal year.

Only slightly lower rice supplies for consumption were to be achieved by a substantially larger collection from the 1954 crop than was possible from the small 1953 harvest. This was possible despite an initial carry-over of about 200,000 tons less than in the year before. Collection of indigenous rice increased by about 460,000 tons from the 1953-54 fiscal year.

Japan's rice imports rose sharply in calendar year 1954 because of the unusually small crop in 1953. Total imports during the year were 1,406,000 metric tons, an increase of 29 percent over 1953. Import arrivals began a sharp upward climb in December 1953 and continued well above normal through May 1954. Thereafter arrivals declined and were below average in the latter part of the year.

Thailand was the largest supplier, as it was in 1953. Imports from the United States doubled those of 1953, when imports were heeded down by export controls. Burma ranked as the third major supplier, also with a sizable increase over 1953.

Rice imports from the United States in 1954 of 343,836 metric tons were composed of 172,073 from California, and 171,763 tons from southern states. This compares with total imports in 1953 of 179,580 tons, with 102,676 tons from California and 76,904 tons from the southern states.

There were significant changes in the import pattern from other sources. Imports from Italy and Spain, both suppliers of short-grain rice, rose substantially. For the first time Communist China became a source of rice for Japan, while Pakistan and Taiwan declined as suppliers.

Import arrivals during early 1955 continued at a low level. Total imports of January and February 1955 came to only 71,362 metric tons as compared with 361,732 in the corresponding months of 1954. Amounts and sources of these imports were 48,000 tons from Formosa, 17,432 from Communist China, and 5,930 tons from Thailand.

Prices paid for imported rice in 1954 showed a downward tendency during the year. Short-grain rice from Taiwan which was priced at \$212 per metric ton (\$9.62 per 100 pounds) C&F in March declined to \$175 per metric ton (\$7.94 per 100 pounds) in December.

Medium-grain rice from Burma was bought under a trade agreement at a fixed price of \$140 f.o.b. (\$6.35 per 100 pounds) in the early part of the year, and there were no shipments from Burma during the second half of 1954. Short-grain rice from Communist China was purchased by Japan in August and December at \$157 to \$160 f.o.b. per metric ton (\$7.12 - \$7.26 per 100 pounds).

JAPAN: Rice imports in terms of milled, by country of origin, average 1935-39, annual 1950-54

Country of Origin	Average 1935-39 <u>1/</u>	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 <u>2/</u>
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
United States...	3/	51,156:	40,595:	234,254:	179,580:	343,836
Thailand.....	30,845:	328,686:	253,987:	317,219:	435,760:	371,799
Burma.....	907:	145,067:	160,771:	126,006:	191,785:	320,354
Taiwan.....	693,550:	0:	71,179:	61,283:	54,017:	36,800
Italy.....	0:	0:	8,414:	108,374:	27,620:	68,000
Egypt.....	0:	24,344:	174,248:	0:	0:	0
Korea.....	1,199,310:	89,659:	3/	0:	0:	0
Spain.....	0:	0:	0:	46,805:	38,413:	58,877
Pakistan.....	0:	0:	3/	6,695:	54,361:	23,535
Iran.....	0:	0:	0:	1,323:	20,388:	0
Portugal.....	0:	0:	0:	1,392:	9,594:	0
Mexico.....	0:	9,951:	0:	2,000:	0:	0
Nicaragua.....	0:	0:	0:	1,153:	3,710:	2,748
Ecuador.....	0:	0:	0:	26,316:	0:	28,433
Uruguay.....	0:	0:	0:	4,412:	0:	9,668
Peru.....	0:	0:	0:	0:	9,712:	21,754
Brazil.....	0:	0:	5,944:	0:	3,000:	0
Argentina.....	0:	0:	0:	0:	2,334:	3,730
Australia.....	0:	0:	4,873:	3/	0:	0
Indochina.....	4/	0:	0:	0:	49,299:	41,668
Communist China...	0:	0:	6,833:	3/	0:	44,625
Turkey.....	0:	0:	0:	0:	5,271:	0
Belgium Congo....	0:	3,114:	1,514:	0:	0:	0
Ceylon.....	0:	0:	0:	0:	0:	30,588
Other countries...	907:	19,563:	64,794:	41,283:	1,933:	0
Total.....	1,925,519:	671,540:	793,157:	973,520:	1,086,327:	1,406,415

1/ Largely brown rice. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 tons. 4/ If any, not separately reported.

Compiled from official and trade sources.

Early in March 1955 the Food Agency reorganized the designation of trading firms authorized to import rice, increasing the number of authorized firms. The announced purpose of this move was to strengthen the business activities of the importers by increasing their number. A feature of interest in connection with United States exports to Japan was the combining of authorized importers from California and the southern states. Previously there had been a separate group authorized to import from each of these areas. Under the new plan, 14 trading firms are authorized to import United States rice.

FROST-DAMAGED COFFEE TREES IN PARANA SHOW RECOVERY;
SUBSTANTIAL 1955 PRODUCTION EXPECTED

Recent observation indicate that there will be a substantial production of coffee this year on plantations in the Brazilian state of Parana where millions of producing trees up to 20 years old were heavily damaged by the frost of July 1953. New growth on such damaged trees, aided by highly favorable weather and the fertile soils, has proceeded much more rapidly than expected by even the most optimistic forecasters.

It is possible at the time, therefore, to evaluate tentatively the results from handling the badly frost-damaged coffee trees of producing ages in each of the various manners as outlined. These were principally (1) cutting back of the trees to a stump, (2) pruning of the dead tops and laterals only, leaving intact the main trunks, and (3) no pruning at all, providing an opportunity for the entry of new growth wherever it occurs.

It appears now that the last-named practice, which was the one recommended by the Brazilian Coffee Institute, the Ministry of Agriculture, and by several of the most experienced growers, has in general given the best results. New growth has come in heavily on the lower trunk and laterals of trees handled in this manner, and frequently to some extent on the central portion. Dead wood will be broken out easily during the coming harvest and the trees, although straggly in appearance, are less deformed than one would expect. The quantity of coffee now on such trees, after two growing seasons, appears to be slightly larger than on those which received a limited pruning. The unpruned trees tend to have somewhat less leaf but more fruit, and seem to be holding their fruit more firmly.

The trees which were pruned only of their dead tops and dead laterals likewise have recovered rapidly and present a considerably better appearance than those which were not pruned at all. They are more leafy, bushy, and compact, and are better shaped for easy harvesting. The bearing surface and fruit production, however, appear to be a little less this year than on the unpruned trees. Possibly there is a long-range advantage in the limited pruning, but for quick recovery in growth and production, the no-pruning method appears to have given equal or better results.

The cutting back of damaged trees to their stumps is now regarded as definitely a mistake. Such trees have put out bushy new growth from the ground level but they have the character now of coffee about 3 years old, without any substantial fruit production. They will not be producing well until next year and even then the bearing surface will be relatively small. There may be of course some long-range offsetting advantages such as healthier tree condition and a longer bearing life.

These general principles are subject of course to some modification according to variation in soil fertility, fertilizers, rainfall, and irrigation. It is reported that trees pruned on a limited basis are producing well when fertilized, but when unfertilized they are failing to develop properly the seed in the fruit.

Some growers claim that an alleged new disease of north Parana coffee, causing blanching and poor seed development, is in reality the consequence of improper practices in pruning and fertilizing the frost-damaged trees. There is noticeably less undeveloped seed both on trees which are unpruned and unfertilized, and on trees partially pruned and fertilized. This appears logical since the pruned trees tend toward heavy new growth and leafing, making heavy demand on soil nutrients, whereas the absence of pruning retards heavy leafing and promotes more normal fruit development.

In the existing price circumstances, the Brazilian growers are judging the comparative desirability of the various practices almost wholly on the cost of handling frost damaged trees and the rapidity with which production can be reestablished. On this basis there is no doubt that the no-pruning method has been by far the most advantageous, enabling a rapid return to production at minimum expense. The pruning of dead tops and laterals, although not delaying very much the recovery of production, required considerable labor and a rather heavy outlay of funds, and in addition the need for fertilizers is more urgent. The cutting back of damaged coffee to stumps, the most expensive practice of all, is the slowest in returning a plantation to a productive state and it is doubtful that there will be significant long-range advantages.

AUSTRIAN COTTON CONSUMPTION RUNNING AHEAD OF IMPORTS

Cotton consumption in Austria during August-January 1954-55 amounted to approximately 55,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) or 14 percent more than in the corresponding period a year ago, according to Einar Jensen, Agricultural Attache, and H. G. Stuckman, American Embassy, Vienna. Mills have been operating at 160 to 170 percent of single shift capacity during recent months, and the rate of consumption has been considerably in excess of imports, which in August-January 1954-55 amounted to 47,000 bales. Consumption of synthetic fibers also increased but to a smaller extent, and no further expansion in the substitution of synthetics for cotton is expected at present. Sufficient orders are reportedly on hand to maintain the present rate of cotton consumption for the next several months.

Imports of 47,000 bales in the August-January 1954-55 period were 12 percent above imports of 42,000 bales in the corresponding 6 months of the previous year. The United States continued to be the major source of Austria's cotton, with Egypt and Brazil ranking next as the other principal suppliers.

The deficit of Austria's imports as compared with consumption has resulted in lowering mill stocks by a corresponding amount. Reported mill stocks as of August 1, 1954, were 31,000 bales, decreasing to 23,000 on January 31, 1955. Stocks of United States cotton decreased during the 6-month period from 14,000 bales held on August 1, 1954, to 7,000 on January 31, 1955.

AUSTRIA: Imports of cotton from major countries of origin;
 average : 1934-38; crop years 1951-52 to 1953-54;
 August-January 1953-54 and 1954-55

(equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of origin	Year beginning August 1				August-January	
	Average	1951	1952	1953	1953-54	1954-55
	1934-38					
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Belgian Congo.....	11	1/	1/	2/	0	0
Brazil.....	6	6	1/	7	1	6
Egypt.....	27	1	9	25	11	11
India and Pakistan..	25	1/	7	5	3	2
United Kingdom.....	2/	14	5	1	0	0
United States.....	94	35	46	46	24	17
Other countries.....	4	9	12	11	3	11
Total.....	167	65	79	95	42	47

1/ Less than 500 bales.

2/ If any, included in "Other countries".

Compiled from Statistik des Auswärtigen Handels Österreichs
 and official sources.

Cotton prices on March 10, 1955, as quoted by the Austrian cotton trade for various comparable growths, c.i.f. continental port, were as follows:

	U. S. cents per pound		
	March 1955	April 1955	May 1955
United States Middling - 1 inch	37	37	37
Pakistan Middling - 1 inch	36	36	36
Turkey Middling - 1 inch 1/	40	40	40
Brazil Type 5 2/	35	35	35

1/ The normal price is 50 cents a pound, but Austrian importers are granted a discount of 20 percent which reduces the price to 40 cents.

2/ The normal price is 36 cents a pound, but the discount of 3 percent reduces the price to 35 cents.

MILK UTILIZATION IN GREECE

Overall milk production in Greece in 1954 was 15 percent above 1953, according to Print Hudson, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Athens. Increases occurred in all categories with the exception of buffalo milk, production of which showed no change from the earlier year. Most of the milk is used for human consumption and is consumed in the form of fluid milk, cheese, butter and yogurt.

Greece: Milk Production and Utilization by kind, 1953 and 1954

Year and Type	Production		Utilization			
	Total	Fluid	Butter	Cheese 1/	Feed	
	: 1,000 Pounds:	: 1,000 Pounds:	: 1,000 Pounds:	: 1,000 Pounds:	: 1,000 Pounds:	
1953						
Cow.....	415,907	271,490	42,681	20,216	81,520	
Buffalo....	57,606	26,984	13,702	3,957	12,963	
Sheep.....	638,845	173,271	19,343	339,903	106,328	
Goat.....	483,052	147,481	47,890	217,685	69,996	
Total....	1,595,410	619,226	123,616	581,761	270,807	
1954 2/						
Cow.....	587,228	349,486	75,155	38,545	124,042	
Buffalo....	57,606	23,605	16,402	4,636	12,963	
Sheep.....	682,119	172,488	19,793	373,257	116,581	
Goat.....	513,853	148,502	50,228	238,046	77,077	
Total....	1,840,806	694,081	161,578	654,484	330,663	

1/ About two-thirds of total cheese production is soft type cheese.

2/ Preliminary.

At the present time, there are 5 pasteurization plants in Greece. Another plant is under construction and will soon be in operation. Consideration is being given to the construction of at least three more pasteurization plants in the near future. Like the others, these will distribute pasteurized milk and some dairy products (ice cream, butter and yogurt) in smaller quantity.

DENMARK INCREASES EGG EXPORTS TO VENEZUELA

It is estimated that during the first half of March the United States exported over 6,000 cases of shell eggs to Caracas through the port city of LaGuaira compared to over 15,000 cases from Denmark.

The reasons are two-fold; eggs from Denmark are known for their quality; also, Danish eggs delivered to Venezuela presently are cheaper than United States eggs.

DENMARK ABOLISHES MILK SUBSIDY

The Danish Ministry for Trade, Industry and Shipping, in a circular of March 24 signed by J. O. Krag and Niels Hansen for the Ministry, announced that with the expiration of Law No. 12 of April 13, 1954, the Government subsidy, which had been granted to reduce the price of milk to consumers, would be abolished. The subsidization of consumer milk was begun originally in 1946 and has been renewed annually until this year.

Under the terms of the expired law the subsidy was granted at the rate of 1 ore per kilogram of whole milk for each 25 ore the basic price of butter exceeded 4.5 kroner per kilogram; with the current basic price of butter at 6.64 kroner per kilogram (approximately 43.4 cents per pound) the milk subsidy amounted to 8.6 ore per kilogram (about 1.2 cents per quart). Total Government payments have run about \$5 million annually; during 1953-54 the annual expenditure totaled \$5,960,000.

Abolishment of the subsidy will now cause fluctuations in the basic butter price to influence the retail price of milk. The Ministry has authority to establish ceiling prices and has placed a ceiling on milk prices and, through the enactment of Law No. 43 of March 14, 1955, also placed a limitation on the profit margins of dealers. In Copenhagen the price of whole milk as of April 1 was set at 64 ore per liter, about 8.8 cents per quart; this is a price rise of 16.4 percent.

Some advocates of the abolition of the subsidy state that the move will reduce direct government outlay and, at the same time, curtail the purchasing power of the public for less essential consumer goods. Furthermore, as labor wages were adjusted in accordance with the retail price index, the milk subsidy tended to hold down the index and minimize any upward pressure on labor wages. While it might be assumed that the abolition of the subsidy would contribute to a rise in the price index and would, therefore, affect wage levels, Danish Government economists maintain that the increase in milk prices will be offset by increased children's allowances and other measures and the retail price index will not be materially affected.

MILK PRODUCTION UP, CONSUMPTION DOWN IN MEXICO

Although 1954 production of cow's milk increased about 2 percent over the previous year to 3.9 billion pounds, total consumption of milk decreased as a result of restrictions placed on imports of powdered milk. Furthermore, a shortage of milk for processing developed during the year as the Mexico City Market went farther and farther afield in order to satisfy its fluid market needs.

Imports of powdered milk, both whole and skim, long the primary dairy product import of Mexico, was only one-third of the 1953 receipts. According to Paul G. Minneman, Agricultural Counselor, American Embassy, Mexico City, total powdered milk imports during 1954 amounted to just under 6.4 million pounds; in 1953 total receipts were more than 19 million pounds. Furthermore, Canada has now become the principal supplier of powdered milk to Mexico, accounting for exactly two-thirds of Mexico's 1954 imports. Some small amount of milk powder was shipped into Free Zones in Mexico; in 1954 this amounted to 69,000 pounds as compared with 40,000 pounds the year previous.

The United States is the sole supplier of fresh whole milk to Mexico and sales during 1954 dropped to 117,000 pounds from the 1953 figure of 645,000 pounds. Canned milk imports, almost entirely from the United States, amounted to only 59,000 pounds in 1954 against total imports of 162,000 pounds the previous year. In 1954 Mexico imported 838,000 pounds of cheese, about one-half of the total imports in 1953; the Netherlands was the principal supplier and accounted for about 50 percent of the 1954 trade.

Mexican imports of butter in 1954 totaled 98,000 pounds as compared with 156,000 in 1953; Denmark supplied more than 78,000 pounds in 1954 and 116,000 in 1953.

During December the retail price of milk hit a high of 9.5 cents per quart while the low price of 8.3 cents was in the January-April period. Aged cheese commanded a wholesale price of just over 39 cents per pound in August, but brought about 23 cents a pound in January. January was also the low period for butter prices when butter at wholesale was being quoted at 32.7 cents a pound; in November the price had risen to 45.2 cents at the current rate of exchange.

IRELAND'S DAIRY SITUATION

The downward trend in milk cow numbers in Ireland was reversed in 1954, and in the June, 1954 census, showed an increase of approximately 2 percent over the census of a year earlier, according to L. M. Smith, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Dublin.

The Embassy estimates milk production at 5,408 million pounds in 1954, more than half of which was used for butter, both factory and farm. Output last year amounted to 80 million pounds of creamery butter (79 million pounds in 1953) and 39 million pounds of farm butter (41 million pounds in 1953). The marked rise in butter production in 1954 enabled exports to be resumed for the first time (in any sizable quantity) since 1950. In order to meet export price competition, most of the 1954 butter exports were subsidized at an estimated 70 shillings (U.S.\$9.80) per hundredweight. The greater portion of Ireland's butter exports went to the United Kingdom.

MEXICAN ICE CREAM PRODUCTION STABLE

Production of ice cream in Mexico remained stable during 1954, according to Paul G. Minneman, Agricultural Counselor, American Embassy, Mexico City, with an estimated output of more than 11.5 million quarts. About one-half of the ice cream is produced in Mexico City.

Although output did not increase over 1953 the use of butterfat in ice cream manufacture showed a large upswing. In 1953 the bulk of the ice cream manufactured contained a considerable amount of vegetable fats, principally coconut oil, which were combined with imported nonfat dry milk solids.

The restrictions on imports of powdered milk during the past year has limited rather severely the amount of nonfat dry milk solids available for use in ice cream with vegetable fats. Furthermore, some manufacturers of ice cream have turned to using butterfat exclusively in their products because the Ministry of Health regulations issued in August of 1953 required that ice cream made with vegetable fats be labeled prominently.

It is estimated that during 1954 as much as 50 percent of the total ice cream output was made with butterfat.

KRAFT PLANT MAY BE ESTABLISHED IN VENEZUELA

The Kraft Food Company is considering establishing a branch factory in Venezuela. The announcement, according to James G. Kempton, Agricultural Attache, was made to the Caracas press by J. C. Loftes, Vice President, and Edward Mirman, Export Manager of Kraft Foods, who arrived in Caracas recently to study the economics of the proposed venture. The Kraft Foods Plant, if one is located in Venezuela, would produce all types of Kraft products, but the emphasis would be on the production of American-type cheese.

ITALY SEEKS SOLUTIONS TO DAIRY PROBLEMS

Agricultural groups and the Government have been seeking a remedy for problems confronting the Italian dairy industry, according to W. Raymond Ogg, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Rome. The most recent meeting on the situation was held late last month at which two suggestions were agreed upon. One was that the Government establish a revolving fund to buy surplus dairy products as necessary to sustain the market; the other was that marketing specialists consider the entire marketing picture and recommend measures for further government intervention in the trade.

The situation in Italy requires, according to the consensus of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministries of Foreign Trade and Commerce, the High Commission for Food, the Milk and Cheese Producers Association and the Agricultural Confederation, all of whom sent representatives to the meeting, more exports of dairy products and reduction in dairy imports. Some criticism was directed against countries practicing subsidization of exports. France was singled out as one whose subsidy policies particularly affect the Italian cheese industry.

CUBA BANS IMPORTS OF FLUID MILK

Chester E. Davis, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Havana, reports that the Cuban Ministry of Public Health has approved a resolution banning imports of fluid milk. An official of the Ministry states that such imports are an economical danger to the Cuban Milk Industry and that there is a lack of adequate sanitary control measures.

Cuba imports less than 500 thousand pounds of fluid milk annually. United States exports of fluid milk and cream are reported at only 10,500 pounds for 1954.

MILK DRYING PLANT FOR BOLIVIA

According to a report of the American Commercial Attache, the Bolivian government has signed a contract with the United Nations Children's Fund under which that organization will provide some of the funds for the equipment needed for a milk powdering plant in Cochabamba; the plant will have a capacity of more than 50,000 pounds of milk daily.

Under the terms of the contract, Bolivia will receive the equipment and some technical assistance in putting the plant into operation and, in turn, will make available about 550,000 pounds of nonfat dry milk solids annually for free distribution to needy mothers and children. UNICEF's contribution is about \$200,000. Other money for the plant will be made available from counterpart funds derived from the sale of surplus agricultural products of the United States in Bolivia.

SLOW-DOWN IN MEAT SHIPMENTS FROM AUSTRALIA

In mid-March some meat buyers in the United Kingdom had requested their Australian shippers to suspend frozen meat shipments until large supplies of beef in the United Kingdom could be used up, reports James H. Boulware, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Canberra.

The Government of the United Kingdom has not officially approached Australia to suspend shipments. Some Australian officials believed it urgent that shipments of chilled beef to the United Kingdom be increased and alternative markets for frozen beef be developed.

The situation in the United Kingdom reflects the current large stocks of frozen meat. Large stocks owned by the Ministry of Food are in store in the country and large stocks are also held in European ports. The latter were diverted shipments resulting from dock strikes in England during the past year. Frozen beef is moving slowly in the United Kingdom and demand for chilled beef continues very strong.

Stocks of frozen beef held by the British Ministry of Food on March 4 totaled 145 million pounds, according to an official of the Ministry, and substantial amounts of other meats were on hand. Recently ministry stocks of imported frozen beef have been offered for sale at slightly over 50 percent of prices for comparable home-killed beef and frozen lamb at 60 to 80 percent of those for home-killed carcasses.

SWITZERLAND TO IMPORT MORE MEAT

Increased imports of frozen meat, frozen tongues, canned and frozen pork liver and canned beef products by Switzerland are expected this year according to Edwin C. Randall, Second Secretary, American Embassy, Bern, Switzerland.

Swiss importers are interested in the possibility of purchasing meat products from South America or in the United States. The Swiss market for meat products is relatively small and the United States has a small share of the market. However, American exports are increasing. Imports from the United States, mostly preserved meat, have increased from 176,000 pounds in 1952 to 604,000 in 1953 and were 1.1 million in 1954.

The Swiss are particularly interested in importing United States tenderloins but at present imports are not allowed by the Swiss veterinary authorities. Inspection officials allow only imports of whole or half carcasses on the grounds that it makes inspection easier. Exceptions are made for frozen kidneys and frozen tongues. Pork liver is imported frozen and cooked upon entry for sausage making. There is a need for frozen processing beef since sausage at present is in short supply. Demands of the Swiss importers may result in the modification of the ban on the import of tenderloins.

Imports of livestock and meat products into Switzerland are regulated by a quota system according to the Swiss Agricultural Law. This law provides that imports must supply that share of the domestic demand which cannot be covered by domestic production.

It is expected that a shortage of cattle for slaughter will continue. Imports are expected to increase, except perhaps during October-November; when farmers normally sell a large number of cattle from pastures. Estimates of import requirements run as high as 1,000 head a week, of which about half are to be cattle for slaughter by the sausage industry. It has been more difficult to bring live cattle into Switzerland since the Soviet Union has purchased such large quantities of meat in Europe. Some regular suppliers of Switzerland, such as Ireland, are selling meat to other countries; thus the Swiss must look to new sources of supply.

On the other hand, domestic production of pork is increasing and it appears that prices have about reached a peak. Imports are still being made on a sporadic basis and some permits for imports have been given. As hog production is rising, marketings of hogs for slaughter in the second half of 1955 are expected to increase.

PRICES FOR NEW ZEALAND WOOL LITTLE BELOW LAST SEASON

About three-quarters of this season's wool clip in New Zealand has been sold at an average price of about 57.4 cents per pound compared with an average for the whole of last season of 58.3 cents, according to Eugene T. Ransom, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Wellington.

The New Zealand Wool Commission reports that up to March 21, 722,000 bales had been sold out of an expected total of 955,000. Sales of remaining supplies "at somewhere near recent price levels is a reasonable expectation."

The season opened on October 27 at Dunedin with prices about 15 to 17½ percent below the closing rates of the previous season. They eased in November. A contributing factor was the absence of Russian buying.

Prices recovered a little at the beginning of December, and increased till the highest point of the season was reached at Invercargill with prices 17½ percent above the lowest point reached in November. Prices since had shown a slight weakening.

Japan provided a healthy substitute for reduced East European competition in February. United States and Canada bought sparingly before the New Year, but have since been quite steady. Local mills have given strength to the market on suitable wools.

New Zealand wools have dropped only 2½ percent in price on the average between July and January last compared with a drop of 15 percent in representative types of the Australian finer, mainly merino wools. This has been attributed to the relative strengthening of the position of the crossbred wools to the greater increase in supply of merino and to the desire of the textile trade to buy less costly material. Also the tendency to withhold South American wools from the market for higher prices has added to the competitive strength of New Zealand wools.

NEAR-RECORD CORN CROP ESTIMATED FOR UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The corn harvest now getting under way in the Union of South Africa is expected to total about 138 million bushels. This would approach the record crop produced a year ago and would be about 60 percent above the 1945-49 average for that country. No significant changes from 1953-54 acreage or yields are expected.

Two successive crops of the size indicated, combined with an inadequate internal transportation system, have created a surplus problem greater than this country had known previously. Present prospects point to a carry-over of about 45 million bushels in commercial positions at the beginning of the crop year, May 1, 1955. This is equivalent to half the country's annual requirements for recent years.

Adding that carry-over to the near-record crop, a total supply of about 180 million bushels is in prospect, and storage as well as transportation is a problem. Storage of 25-30 million bushels of corn in the open under tarpaulins was reported in February and this could be expected to increase materially when this year's crop has been harvested. In addition to damage and loss caused by rodents and birds, the threat of great insect damage is reported. Research projects have been financed to study this problem.

The Mealie Control Board has announced the basic price it will pay for corn for the marketing season beginning May 1, 1955. The price to be paid producers is the equivalent of \$1.19 per bushel delivered to an agent's station or a railway station. The producer, however, is required to contribute the equivalent of 1 cent per bushel to the Stabilization Fund by means of a recently imposed levy. The net of \$1.18 for the current season, compares with a basic price of \$1.22 for the season ending April 30, 1955.

Local consumers' prices are subsidized at the equivalent of about 14 cents per bushel. This is about 2 cents per bushel less than the subsidy rate last year, and that difference now goes into the Government's Stabilization Fund, as do also profits from corn exports. The subsidy amounts to a sizable total, since corn is the basic food of the 10 million natives and is also consumed to a considerable extent by the European population of 2.8 million.

NIGERIAN PALM PRODUCE PURCHASES DOWN SHARPLY

Purchases of Nigerian palm produce by the Regional Marketing Boards up to March 10, 1955, or during the first 10 weeks of the current season, declined sharply from the quantities purchased in the comparable period of 1954, reports E. R. Williams, American Consulate General, Lagos. Palm kernel purchases of 69,888 short tons were 10 percent less than during the first 10 weeks of 1954 while total palm oil purchases of 33,293 tons were down one-fifth from last year.

NIGERIA: Palm produce purchases,
first 10 weeks 1954 and 1955

(Short tons)

Commodity	1954	1955
Palm kernels.....	77,964	69,888
Palm Oil		
Special Grade A 1/		16,745
Special Grade B.....	23,436	6,232
Total Special Grades.....	23,436	22,977
Technical Grade I.....	14,148	7,891
Technical Grade II.....	2,011	934
Technical Grade III.....	2,140	1,491
Total Technical Grades.....	18,299	10,316
Total palm oil.....	41,735	33,293

1/ Special Grade A established in 1955 season.

American Consulate General, Lagos.

As the above table indicates, purchases declined largely in the technical grades of palm oil, which were down 44 percent. Total purchases of Special Grade A (not over $3\frac{1}{2}$ percent free fatty acid) and Special Grade B (over $3\frac{1}{2}$ percent but not over $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent FFA) declined 2 percent from last year despite the continuation in 1955 of the price differential in favor of special grade oils. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, January 24, 1955.)

The decline in purchases was due, at least in part to the following:

1. Late rains in 1954 which probably delayed fruition.
2. A marketing spurt during the latter part of December which substantially cleared holdings, probably because of anticipated price reductions in 1955.
3. Some early hesitation on the part of producers and middlemen to market this oil until the effects of the new prices were clear.

YUGOSLAVIA PROHIBITS EXPORTS OF
CERTAIN FATS, OILS, AND OILSEEDS

The export of various commodities from Yugoslavia, including certain fats, oils, and oilseeds, is prohibited, according to a decision of the Federal Executive Council's Committee for Economy, reports the American Embassy, Belgrade. The ruling, which took effect on February 23, replaces and widens the embargo and quota lists established early in 1954. Lard, rendered butter, butter, edible oil, tallow, leaf-fat, oilseed cakes, soybeans, rapeseed, sunflower seed, cottonseed, and hemp seed are among the products prohibited from exportation. The new decision was published in the Official Gazette No. 8, February 23, 1955.

CAMBODIA MODIFIES PROHIBITION OF OILSEED EXPORTS TO SOUTH VIETNAM

The prohibition of the export of certain products, including soybeans, sesame, and peanuts, from Cambodia to South Vietnam was recently modified, reports the American Embassy, Phnom Penh. With respect to oilseeds, the prohibition was lifted on soybeans and sesame, but remains in effect on peanuts.

The products originally selected for export prohibition to South Vietnam are not consumed in that country but resold by merchants to other countries. The order was intended to permit the direct sale of these commodities by Cambodian merchants to other countries.

ARGENTINE TUNG OIL ENTERING U.S. ALMOST THREE-FOURTHS OF "QUOTA"

Argentine exports of tung oil to the United States during March 1955 are reported preliminarily at 331 short tons. Exports in the 6-month period October 1954 through March 1955, which presumably would enter the United States in November-April, amounted to 7,905 tons on the basis of the preliminary data now available. This tonnage is about 73 percent of the total agreed maximum of 21.8 million pounds (10,900 tons) that may enter the United States from Argentina during the United States marketing year ending October 31, 1955. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, January 24, 1955.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: United States imports of tung oil from Argentina during the 6-month period November 1954-April 1955 are estimated at 16.2 million pounds (8,100 tons) on the basis of preliminary official import statistics for November-February and Argentina exports to the United States in February-March.

ECUADOR GRANTS AID TO VEGETABLE OILSEED INDUSTRY

The National Development Bank of Ecuador recently authorized a grant of 10 million sucres (approximately \$675,000) in credits to growers of oilseeds and manufacturers of oilseed products, reports William F. Gray, Economic Attache, American Embassy, Quito. Studies are to be made by technicians of the Bank to determine the most efficient use of the credits in stimulating oilseed production. (See Foreign Crops and Markets of February 7, 1955, Page 148.)

The Ecuadoran Government's assistance to oilseed producers was to be given considerable publicity by the Ecuadoran Delegation to the New Orleans Investment Conference held in February, in order to interest foreign capital in this field.

VENEZUELA IMPORTS MORE COPRA,
LESS SESAME IN 1954

Imports of copra and sesame into Venezuela in 1954 amounted to 44,161 and 5,240 short tons, respectively, as compared with 30,759 and 15,013 tons in the previous year, reports James H. Kempton, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Caracas. Imports of other oilseeds are small. Venezuela also imported last year 1,565 tons of linseed oil, 888 tons of pure olive oil, 1,338 tons of unspecified vegetable oils, 1,403 tons of butter, 2,265 tons of tallow, and 405 tons of hog lard.

Domestic production of oilseeds is limited to copra, sesame, cottonseed, and palm nuts. Of these, only the first 2 are important and these fall far short of requirements. Local copra production is estimated roughly at 16,500 tons and sesame output in 1953-54 is placed at about 4,500 tons.

Under an agreement negotiated by the Government, crushers must absorb the total production of local copra and sesame before duty free importation of these oilseeds is authorized. The price at which local copra must be bought is \$300 per metric ton (\$272 per short ton) at Puerto Cabello and the price of local sesame is \$360 per metric ton (\$327 per short ton) at Valencia. There are penalties for off-quality and for dirty seed so that few producers receive top prices. Even so, the cost to the crusher for local seed is much greater than for imported oilseeds.

All the local cottonseed is crushed by the Government as most of the gins are Government-owned and operated. Palm oil enjoys no compulsory market and the vegetable oil users have been careful not to provide a market for this oil.

Coconut plantings are being expanded slowly, but not at a rate equal to increasing consumption. Sesame production is increasing and the hope is to achieve a local production this year of 11,000 tons. There is doubt that sesame acreage will be expanded as the National Agrarian Institute was authorized to clear an additional 8,000 hectares (19,768 acres) for the specific purpose of increasing sesame acreage. However, all of this new acreage will not be planted to sesame this year.

SWEDEN INCREASES COTTON
IMPORTS FROM U.S.

Increased imports of cotton by Sweden from the United States were reported for the months of December-February 1954-55, following the liberalization of dollar imports on October 1, 1954, according to Elmer A. Reese, Agricultural Attache, and Georg Frostenson, American Embassy, Stockholm. Whereas imports of cotton from the United States in the July-November 1954 period constituted only 32 percent of Sweden's total cotton imports, in the December-February 1954-55 period the United States' share amounted to 58 percent of the total. For the 7-month period, August-February 1954-55, total cotton imports amounted to 94,000 bales (500 pounds gross) or 31 percent above the 72,000 bales imported in the corresponding period of 1953-54.

SWEDEN: Imports of cotton by countries of origin;
crop years 1950-51 to 1953-54; August-February 1953-54 and 1954-55

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of origin	Year beginning August 1				August-February	
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1953-54	1954-55
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Belgian Congo.....	1.9	3.3	6.6	9.2	4.6	4.5
Brazil.....	25.9	11.7	.9	22.6	15.9	10.4
British East Africa	5.2	.8	3.1	1.8	.4	1.3
Egypt.....	8.7	1.5	18.7	8.2	7.3	.5
Mexico.....	23.1	22.3	12.9	9.2	6.7	13.1
Pakistan.....	13.0	1.0	16.7	12.1	6.0	1.6
Paraguay.....	5.6	1/	6.2	9.9	8.5	3.1
Peru.....	1/	3.6	12.0	2.6	2.6	.8
United States.....	52.0	107.0	40.3	44.1	18.3	34.1
Other countries.....	4.7	5.6	6.5	8.0	1.8	25.1
Total.....	140.1	156.8	123.9	127.7	72.1	94.5

1/ If any, included in "Other countries".

Compiled from official sources.

Cotton utilization in Sweden in the calendar year 1954 amounted to approximately 135,000 bales, an increase of 5 percent over the 129,000 bales consumed in calendar year 1953. Output of the textile industry as a whole declined by about 3.5 percent in 1954, but because of increased preference for cotton goods, the cotton industry more than held its own. The present degree of self-sufficiency of the Swedish cotton textile industry is about 90 percent for cotton yarn and knittings, and 77 percent for cotton textiles.

Total cotton stocks in Sweden on December 31, 1954, were reported at 104,000 bales, up slightly from stocks of 103,000 bales held on August 1, 1954. Stocks of United States cotton on December 31, 1954 were 64,000 bales or 62 percent of the total.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Issued recently and available free upon request
from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Mexican Foreign Trade in Agricultural Products in 1954. Foreign
Agriculture Circular FAMP 5-55.

U. K. Egg and Poultry Situation. Foreign Agriculture Circular
FPE 5-55

The Vegetable Oils and Oil-Bearing Materials Situation in the
Belgian Congo. FFO 6-55

Review of the 1954 Barley and Oats Situation. Foreign Agri-
culture Circular FG 12-55

1954 Dried Prune Production Down. Foreign Agriculture Circular
FDF 8-55

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U.S. IMPORTS OF UNMANUFACTURED
TOBACCO--CALENDAR YEAR 1954

United States imports for consumption of unmanufactured tobacco totaled 106.4 million pounds in 1954, an increase of 1 percent over 1953 imports of 105.4 million pounds.

Cigarette Leaf

Imports of cigarette leaf at 79.3 million pounds in 1954 were slightly larger than 1953 imports of 78.0 million pounds. Turkey, as usual, was the largest supplier last year, furnishing 56.0 million pounds. Greece supplied 15.6 million in 1954 - up slightly from 1953. There were increases in imports from Italy and Yugoslavia. Imports from Syria were about 12 percent below those of a year earlier.

Cigar Leaf - Filler and Wrapper

Imports of both filler and wrapper in 1954 were below those of 1953. Imports of scraps and stems increased slightly in 1954.

(See tables on following pages)

L A T E N E W S

Indonesia's exports of copra in January 1955 amounted to 14,296 long tons net weight, a decrease of 10 percent from the previous month and 30 percent from January 1954. The breakdown of the January copra exports by country of destination is as follows: Yugoslavia--984; Malaya (Penang)--1,234; Singapore--3,684; China--4,851; and Japan--3,543 tons.

(Continued on Page 475)

United States: Imports of unmanufactured tobacco by principal countries of origin
calendar year 1954, with comparisons

Type and Country of Origin	Average 1947-51	1952	1953 $\bar{1}$ / pounds	1954 $\bar{1}$ / pounds	1953 $\bar{1}$ / dollars	1954 $\bar{1}$ / dollars
<u>Cigarette Leaf:</u>						
Turkey.....	46,848	54,954	56,884	55,966	35,625	35,363
Greece.....	9,327	14,541	14,318	15,569	12,362	12,995
Italy.....	237	810	1,210	1,918	975	1,836
Syria.....	3,838	3,897	3,295	2,898	1,307	1,058
Bulgaria.....	2,165	7	-	33	-	21
Soviet Union.....	2,783	2/	-	-	-	-
Northern Rhodesia.....	168	136	108	(309	60	185
Southern Rhodesia.....	1,154	561	260	(3/	135	3/ 4/
Yugoslavia.....	411	765	1,390	2,253	1,093	2,162
Other countries.....	247	247	509	386	291	132
Total.....	67,178	75,918	77,974	79,332	51,848	53,752
<u>Cigar Leaf: (filler stemmed & unstemmed)</u>						
Cuba.....	16,477	13,874	14,165	13,887	19,898	18,390
Philippines.....	279	2,093	582	34	79	5
Other Countries.....	11	21	30	41	15	19
Total.....	16,767	15,988	14,777	13,962	19,992	18,416
<u>Cigar Leaf: (wrapper stemmed & unstemmed)...</u>						
Cuba.....	285	371	431	491	2,071	2,212
Indonesia 5/.....	804	758	445	387	2,172	1,963
Other Countries.....	21	-	50	-	11	-
Total.....	1,110	1,129	926	878	4,254	4,175

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Type and Country of Origin	Average 1947-51	1952	1953 $\bar{1}$ /	1954 $\bar{1}$ /	1953 $\bar{1}$ /	1954 $\bar{1}$ /
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	dollars	dollars
Scraps and Stems						
Cuba.....	5,312	8,129	8,969	10,242	5,457	5,897
Philippines.....	309	1,219	2,303	1,416	612	395
United Kingdom.....	105	417	465	579	19	14
Other Countries.....	687	58	19	38	2	30
Total.....	6,413	9,823	11,756	12,275	6,090	6,336
Total Imports.....	91,468	102,858	105,433	106,447	82,184	82,679

- 1/ Preliminary
- 2/ Less than 500 pounds
- 3/ Effective July 1, 1954, Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland including Northern and Southern Rhodesia
- 4/ Official data not available, estimated
- 5/ Includes Indonesian tobacco re-shipped from the Netherlands

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

PUBLICATIONS in addition to Foreign Crops and Markets containing world agricultural information issued by the FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE on a continuing basis:

Foreign Agricultural Trade of the U.S.--Digest. An interpretative analysis of the current United States foreign trade situation. Issued monthly.

Foreign Agricultural Trade of the U.S.--Statistical Report. A companion publication to the foreign trade "Digest" above. Lists monthly and annual statistics on quantity and value of U.S. agricultural exports and imports, and comparisons with previous years. Issued monthly.

Foreign Agriculture Circulars. Published at irregular intervals during the year on separate mailing lists for the following:

Agr'l. Trade and Policy (incl. monthly Foreign Agr'l. Trade Digest)	Deciduous Fruits	Poultry and Eggs
Coffee	Dried Fruits	Rice
Citrus Fruits	Fats and Oils	Sugar
Cocoa	Fresh Vegetables	Tea, Spices, & other tropical products
Cotton	Grains (other than Rice)	Tobacco
Dairying	Hops	Vegetable Fibers
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	Nuts	

The foregoing publications are mailed free upon request to persons in the U.S.

The Foreign Agricultural Service also publishes Foreign Agriculture, a printed and illustrated monthly magazine. It is available by subscription from the U.S. Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D.C. at rates of \$1.50 a year, domestic mailing, and \$2.00 a year, foreign mailing.

L A T E N E W S--(Continued from Page 472)

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through United States ports in December, 1954, amounted to 116,000 bales (500 pounds gross) compared with 84,000 bales in December, 1955. During December, 1954, the principal destinations were: Japan 39,000 bales; Germany 23,000; Netherlands 16,000; Belgium and the United Kingdom 14,000 each; Spain 5,000; and Sweden 2,000. These figures include linters, waste, and hull fiber, but do not include transshipments of cotton to Canada by railroad or exports from Mexican ports directly to foreign destinations.

Philippine copra exports during March amounted to 47,583 long tons, a decrease of 28 percent from the previous month and 8 percent from March 1954. The Breakdown of the March copra exports by country of destination is as follows: United States--27,393 tons (Atlantic-3,918, Gulf-2,372, Pacific-21,103); Belgium--500; Denmark--1,400; Germany--500; Italy--500; the Netherlands--1,000; Norway--5,500; Sweden--1,000; Lebanon--300; Israel--1,300; Colombia--4,450 and Venezuela--3,740 tons.

March exports of coconut oil amounted to 4,232 tons compared with 5,421 tons in February and 5,036 tons in March 1954. Shipments were as follows: United States--3,932 tons (Atlantic-3,702, Pacific-230); and Cuba--300 tons. On a copra equivalent basis, exports of copra and coconut oil January through March of this year totaled 197,516 tons, or 14 percent more than the 173,729 tons exported in the same months of 1954.

The copra export price in mid-April was \$160.00 per short ton, c.i.f. Pacific. Local buying prices in Manila were 26.00 to 29.00 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$132.09 to \$147.33) per long ton.

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